



Arizona Department of Transportation

Public Transportation Division

MEMORANDUM

To: MPO and COG Directors

Date: 14 June, 2006

From: Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

Subject: State Public Transportation Update

Hello MPO and COG Directors: Here is a pre-Independence Day update from the ADOT's Public Transportation Division:

SB1166 Stopping on State Highways: ADOT has contracted with S.R.Beard and Associates to complete the implementation plan for this legislation. It should become law sometime in late September or early October, and with your help, we want to have guidelines in place for implementation that addresses a wide variety of safety and design factors. We will have several input sessions and will survey you for some additional information. Contact Jim Dickey for more information: 602 712 8137

State Railroad Assessment and Inventory: Using ADOT's on-call list and in a partnership with MAG, the State 2006 Railroad Inventory and Assessment is underway now. R.L.Banks and Associates have been retained to complete the study, which we anticipate will take up to one year. The initial focus of the study will be within Maricopa County in order to provide a baseline of information to augment a planned study effort by MAG about Commuter Rail. Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871.

Arizona Framework for Coordinated Transportation: The next three topics, State Rural Transit Needs Study, Arizona Rides, and JARC/New Freedoms Distributions.....are all becoming more and more inter-related. As a result, ADOT-PTD is strategizing how to coordinate the efforts and the funding behind each one to best meet planning requirements, fund distributions, and program implementation. By June 26, 2006, ADOT-PTD will provide to you a draft outline of planning/funding/implementation process that leverages resources and provides a schedule of outcomes to meet federal guidelines and your needs for your input. In the meantime, read on!

State Rural Transit Needs Study: In a matching-funds partnership with AzTA, ADOT is beginning solicitation of a project consultant using its on-call list. The solicitation will begin on June 15, 2006, and because of the magnitude of this study, we will hold a pre-proposal conference on Tuesday, June 27, 10:00, at ADOT to help better define the project and answer questions ahead of the proposal deadline of July 10. This yearlong study will focus on identifying needs, service gaps, and quantifying costs of providing a more comprehensive rural transit network. Included in the effort will be some JARC and New Freedom planning. Contact Jim Dickey for more information: 602 712 8137.

Arizona Rides: There are several developments in the Arizona Rides program worthy of your note:

- * ADOT has been awarded the full \$75K FTA Implementation Grant request, which should be available shortly; it will be supplemented by nearly \$50K of ADOT section 5304 planning funds.
- * ADOT applied for a Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant, in order to facilitate a coordinated rural training effort. No news yet, but we anticipate the best!
- * ADOT-PTD has filled its Arizona Rides Coordinator position with Steve Rost.
- * As a result of the grant award, we will be distributing a grant description and responsibilities outline to each of the MPOs and COGs identifying the responsibilities for each in order to expend the grant funds. Our plan is to use those funds to help identify a coordination plan AND include the planning requirements for JARC and New Freedoms programs. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736 or Steve Rost at 602 712 8018 for more information\

JARC and New Freedom Distributions: Speaking of the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program, it is formulated for the first time, and the New Freedom initiative designed to create new opportunities for disabled travelers' accessibility "beyond the ADA" finally has funding associated with it. Based upon an earlier request of you, I am now

framing the recommendation to the Governor to stipulate that the current host of designated recipients be the basis for these allocation programs. Incumbent with that responsibility is the development of associated planning efforts. (According to law, the large MPOs {MAG and PAG areas} working with their designated recipients, have responsibility to determine the distribution based upon a plan {a JARC plan may already exist, but a New Freedoms plan does not}. For the small MPOs and for the rest of the state, it is the responsibility according to FTA for ADOT to develop a distribution plan.) As indicated above, knowing that no specific JARC nor New Freedoms plans currently exist at most levels, ADOT will be working with the small MPOs and COGs to determine a way that an FY06 distribution may happen, so ADOT-PTD will be contacting you to help decide on a strategy. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736 or Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137 for more information.

FY07 Legislative Agenda Ideas: It's never too early to begin to think about issues that you may wish for ADOT to frame for consideration for the upcoming FY07 Legislative session. PTD staff has several ideas, and welcome yours, too. Here are some of what we're thinking might be viable legislative issues:

- * Bus Stop advertising on state highways
 - * State Infrastructure Bank (Help Loan program) modifications to fund and facilitate transit program loans
 - * Reversion of the \$650K RR R/W purchase fund to RR planning (the R/W was specifically identified in the original statute, no longer available)
 - * LTAFII improvements including annual guarantees instead of thresholds
 - * Fully supported Bus Subsidy program in Non-attainment areas for State employees
- Contact Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137

LTAFII: Speaking of LTAFII, my predictions at the Rural Transportation Conference were indeed very wrong; conservative for sure, but wrong! LTAFII, funded by PowerBall revenues, has had a very good year, in fact, the best ever. Current fund balances for distribution to transit THROUGH MAY '06, are at \$10.3M. We expect approximately \$3M more in June. So, despite the raised threshold for this current year (\$37 from \$31M) and with clarification of the \$18M funding cap now complete, you can look forward to a distribution of more than twice the amount received in the last year. We will work diligently to distribute the funds, based upon the application process, sometime in October or November '06. Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790

FTA 5310: The FTA 5310 program awards for this cycle will be announced July 24 through notification to COGs and MPOs. Healthy interest in the program continues, and we hope will mature. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736.

FTA 5311: Similarly, the FTA 5311 Rural Transportation Program evaluations for this cycle are complete and final awards will be posted on the ADOT website on Monday June 19. Remember, I am recommending consideration of multi-year IGAs for the 5311 program, requiring only a funding "addendum" in out years, to streamline that process. The IGA multi-year term will be the same as the SAFETEA-LU authorization. This is a record year! Contact Sam Chavez at 602 712 7465.

RTCS: The last of the four Regional Transit Connector Services three-year pilot programs began in May 2006. Previously initiated Ajo/Gila Bend to Phoenix, Wellton to Yuma, Green Valley/Sahuarita to Tucson, are now joined by Kachina Village to Flagstaff as the four pilot programs conceived by the ADOT Board several years ago. The formal "celebration" kicking off service in Kachina Village is next Wednesday! Congratulations to Matt Carpenter and others internal and external to ADOT that have made this program successful. Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790 for more information.

Annual CTAA Conference in Orlando: I was happy to see many of you attend that conference and it proved worthwhile in forwarding the discussions concerning JARC, New Freedoms, and a host of support issues like maintenance, operator training, marketing, along with other issues. Next year ADOT will concentrate on addressing training and support needs from a staff perspective to determine conference attendance.

ADOT PTD Personnel/Organization: Here is a review of new staff additions and some changes organizationally at ADOT PTD:

- * Training specialist: Dan Harrigan. Dan will be working primarily in the RTAP arena to strengthen the training program we host for section 5311 and 5310. He reports to Sam Chavez. Contact Dan at 602 712 8232
- * Arizona Rides Coordinator: As I mentioned earlier, Steve Rost joined ADOT staff to focus our efforts on AzRides efforts. You can reach Steve at 602 712 8018.
- * Manager of Planning. Previously, I announced that ADOT was recruiting for a Senior Planner position. Based upon some re-assignment efforts, I have cancelled that effort and redefined the need, and ADOT will begin a recruitment for a Manager of Planning sometime this fall. In the interim, Matt Carpenter has assumed planning manager responsibilities for

the bulk of the FTA 5304 planning efforts, along with LTAFII, STIP, and other misc. responsibilities. Contact Matt at 602 712 6790.

* Rail Planning: And speaking of which, I have elevated rail programs in our organizational structure, and Scott Friedson will assume management of the rail planning processes, including the State Safety Oversight Program, State Rail Inventory and Assessment study, and other rail related programs. Scott will retain his responsibilities for FTA-grant management functions.

State Management Review: ADOT will meet with FTA staff and their Review Consultant on August 1-4 to review the program and practices of PTD; this is a similar process to the Triennial Review that FTA 5307 recipients experience. The review includes a desk review submittal approximately two weeks ahead of the on-site review. Included in the on-site effort will be review of 19 areas of DOT performance in grant administration of the 5310 and 5311 programs and site-visits to a representative 5310 and 5311 recipient. PTD is now updating its State Management Plan and reviewing the application processes just overhauled for technical corrections, completing several internal processes including procurement reviews, file audits, contracts management, record keeping, and other administrative efforts, which may involve you or recipients in your area. Your help is always appreciated. Contact Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137 or Liz Votino at 602 712 8080.

Statewide Ride Share Data Base: ADOT, Valley Metro, and PAG are now working to develop model for a statewide rideshare database. We are completing an IGA to define the effort, which will expand the current database in Maricopa and Pima counties to a statewide resource, thus allowing anyone who registers to do ride matching with those of similar trip making needs. Look for the program to implemented sometime later this calendar year! Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871.

Other planning efforts upcoming: PTD is working on several other planning projects other than those highlighted above. Here's a short list:

- * Maricopa 5311 feasibility and implementation plan is at consultant selection
 - * Nogales (and surrounding area) 5311 feasibility and implementation plan has begun
 - * Queen Creek 5311 feasibility and implementation plan scoping underway
 - * Partnering with TPD on SATS in Pinal, Casa Grande, Benson, Somerton, Douglas, Greenlee County, Queen Creek, and Florence/Coolidge
 - * Development of Performance Objectives for 5311 and RTCS projects
- Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790

Conferences/Training/Meeting Update:

- *Arizona League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference (Tucson) 8/22-25
- *5311 Rural Transit Conference (Phoenix) 8/30
- *Arizona Rides Executive Council (Phoenix) 9/7

The ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities. With your participation and help, we can do that. Don't hesitate to contact any of the PTD staff for information or direction in regard to your public transportation program needs. And check out our website at www.azdot.gov/ptd.

Thanks.....Jim Dickey